



MEDIA RELEASE

Graffiti Vandals Nabbed, Six Juveniles in Custody

SANTA BARBARA, CA – April 23, 2012

On April 19, 2012 at 9:00 p.m., Officer Rick Cipres was among a number of Santa Barbara Police Officers assigned to assist with protecting Vice President Biden during his recent visit to Santa Barbara. On this occasion Officer Cipres was given the not so glamorous duty of standing watch over the Junipero Street Footbridge, which spans the freeway between Oak Park and Pilgrim Terrace. His job was to watch for any suspicious subjects on the bridge that might pose a threat to the Vice Presidential Motorcade, which was scheduled to pass below.

While patrolling the footbridge Officer Cipres noticed the smell of fresh paint, followed by the distinct sound of spray cans rattling in the distance. He looked west, toward the railroad tracks, and saw a group of vandals work, using flashlights to illuminate the 30 foot by 6 foot section of wall they were painting and even stopping briefly to photograph their handiwork.

Officer Cipres radioed for reinforcements and several officers responded to assist. When the group was contacted, foot pursuits ensued in all directions. Eventually six juveniles, five boys and one girl ages 15 to 17, were detained. Three were captured heading eastbound over the bridge, two were caught on 600 W. Mission Street, and one was stopped on 1900 San Pascual Street. One of the juveniles is on probation for grand theft auto and another has a graffiti case pending in Teen Court.

The suspects were released to their parents at SBPD. The case has been forwarded to the Juvenile Probation Department for review and filing of the following misdemeanor charges: vandalism, trespass on railroad property, and resisting or delaying an officer.

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